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BOROUGH of DORCHESTER

Annual Report on the Public Health and Sanitary Circumstances of the Borough of Dorchester for the year 1948.

To His Worship the Mayor, Aldermen and Councillors of the Borough of Dorchester.

VITAL STATISTICS. The latest figures available are those for the year 1947, so it is to that year that the figures under this heading relate.

Estimated Population = 10,690.
Total Births = 217.
Total Deaths = 148.
Live Births = 211.
Live Birth Rate per 1,000 of the estimated population = 19.7.

	Males	Females	Total.
Legitimate . . .	113	89	202
Illegimate . . .	5	4	9
Still Births = 6.			
Legitimate . . .	1	5	6

Deaths of Infants under One year of Age = 5

	Males	Females
Legitimate	2	1
Illegitimate	-	2

Infantile Mortality Rate, all Infants per 1,000 live births = 23.6
Ditto all England and Wales = 41.
Ditto 148 Smaller Towns in England and Wales = 36.

DEATH RATE per 1,000 estimated resident population = 13.8

DEATHS:-	Causes of Death	Males	Females
6.	Tuberculosis of Respiratory System	4	1
9.	Influenza	2	-
13.	Cancer of Uterus . .	-	1
14.	Cancer of Stomach & duodenum	7	3
15.	Cancer of Breast . .	-	4
16.	Cancer of other sites . .	6	7
17.	Diabetes . .	-	1
18.	Intra-cranial Vascular Lesions .	8	8
19.	Heart Disease . .	22	27
20.	Other diseases of Circulatory System	4	1
21.	Bronchitis . .	3	2
22.	Pneumonia . .	5	2
24.	Ulcer of Stomach or Duodenum .	1	-
25.	Diarrhoea (under 2 years of age)	-	1
27.	Digestive Diseases (other than Appendicitis) . .	1	2
28.	Nephritis . .	5	1
30.	Maternal Causes (other than Puerperal Sepsis) . .	-	2
31.	Premature Birth . .	-	2
33.	Suicide . .	1	-
34.	Road Traffic Accidents . .	-	1
35.	Other Violent Causes . .	-	3
36.	All Other Causes . .	4	6
	Total	73	75

1948
NOTIFIABLE DISEASES. Summary. The following civilian cases were notified:- Anterior Poliomyelitis.1, Dysentery (Sonne) 1, Erysipelas 2, Malaria, recurrent, 1, Measles 11, Pneumonia, Acute Primary, 6, Scarlet Fever 4. Tuberculosis, Pulmonary 5, Tuberculosis, Non-Pulmonary 5, Whooping Cough 16.

Non-civilian Case. Pneumonia, Acute Primary 1.

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Total Cases on the Register under Public Health (Tuberculosis) Regulations 1930 are:- Pulmonary Males 24. Females 12. Non-Pulmonary Males 9. Females 8. Total 53.

No case of Diphtheria, Ophthalmia neonatorum, or Puerperal pyrexia was notified during the year.

MEASLES These cases occurred in April - May and July - August and were widely distributed.

ANTERIOR POLIOMYELITIS. There was an adult employed at the Dorset County Hospital who was treated there and made a good recovery and returned to ~~his~~ her home.

SCARLET FEVER. One case occurred in the Dorset County Hospital, the other 3 were dis-associated in different parts of the Borough. No School or Milk supply was involved.

TUBERCULOSIS. One pulmonary case was imported from Africa and one non-pulmonary case came from Manchester.

SCABIES. Three cases were reported to me and all of them were treated at the Weymouth Cleansing Station. Two in January One in April. In October One case of verminous condition was also cleansed at Weymouth.

IMMUNISATION. against Diphtheria. Clinics for the Immunisation of children of under school age are held at monthly intervals by the Dorset County Council, at the Clinic Glyde Path Road.

The Children Immunised during the Six months ending 30th June 1948 were:-

Under 1.	1	2	3	4	5	6 - 14 years of age
7	77	4	2	1	2	Nil

Seven children had reinforcing doses.

From July 1948 by Act of Parliament the responsibility of the immunisation of all Children has passed from us to the Dorset County Council. The number of Children Immunised at any time up to 30th June 1948 and who are now of the following ages is shown in the following summary:-

Children Immunised at any time up to 30-6-48 and who are now :-

Under 1	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14
7	77	107	77	41	65	104	110	99	101	93	92	143	134	154

Total 1363

As this marks the end of the Borough Scheme for Immunisation, I should like to revert to this Council's Meeting on 12th Feby 1935, when I brought forward my Immunisation Scheme asking the Council to provide the required £250. to cover the cost for the first year. In those days no help was forthcoming from either the Dorset County Council or the Ministry of Health, we were, in fact, ahead of the times. I am sure the Town Clerk was right when he then said "This was one of the biggest things that the Council had yet done." The parents of the Borough have good grounds for being thankful that the scheme was so well and truly launched and I take this opportunity of thanking the Council for the financial support they then gave me.

MEAT INSPECTION

Certain premises in the Borough are still being used as Government Slaughter-houses by the Ministry of Food, and slaughtering takes place locally for the distribution of meat to the following areas :-

Dorchester Borough, Dorchester Rural District, Portland, Swanage, Wareham Borough, Wareham Rural District and Weymouth.

Assistance in the work of meat inspection has been given throughout the year by Inspectors from all but Wareham Rural District and their help is much appreciated. A Government Slaughter-house is established in the excepted area, and for this reason no local help has been requested.

During the year 273 visits have been paid to the Slaughter-houses and 10,584 animal carcases have been examined, as follows:-

	Bovines	Calves	Sheep	Pigs	Goats	Total
By Dorchester Borough Inspector	1194	2395	3053	199	29	6870
By Other Inspectors	2038	128	1528	17	3	3714
	3232	2523	4581	216	32	10584

The undermentioned quantities of meat and offal have been found to be unfit for human food and consequently condemned:-

	Beef	Mutton	Pork	Veal	Goat-flesh	Offal	Total
By Dorchester Boro' Inspector	18,101	497	509	306	Nil	12,174	31,58
By Other Inspectors	29,200	691	294	211	Nil	35,651	66,04
	47,301	1188	803	517	Nil	47,825	97,63

28 Tons 9 cwt 0 qrs 16 lbs was condemned owing to tuberculosis; 15 tons 2 cwt 2 qrs 10 lbs was unfit owing to various other diseases.

ANIMAL CARCASES EXAMINED - 1948
By Dorchester Borough Inspector

	Cattle Excluding Cows	Cattle Cows	Calves	Sheep & Lambs	Pigs
Number killed	648	546	2395	3053	199
Number Inspected	648	546	2395	3053	199
All diseases except T.B.					
Whole carcases condemned	3	6	5	6	2
	0.46%	1.09%	0.20%	0.19%	1.00%
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned	60	87	30	225	19
	9.25%	15.93%	1.25	7.36%	9.54%
Tuberculosis only					
Whole carcases condemned	4	17	..	..	1
	0.61%	3.11%	..	..	0.50%
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned.	82	135	3	..	6
	12.65%	24.72%	0.12%	..	3.01%

Slaughter of Animals Act, 1933.

One licence to slaughter animals under the above-named Act has been issued during the year.

Unsound Food

Additional food, as set out below, was found to be unsound and unfit for human food and was, therefore, condemned and destroyed or used for salvage purposes where possible:-

	Milk -	618 Tins	
Bacon	- 250 lbs	Marzipan	- 56 lbs
Cheese	- 17 "	Meat	- 3859 "
Crumpets	- 22 "	Poultry	- 106 "
Fat	- 2 "	Oats	- 157 "
Fish	-1653 "	Tea	40 "
Fruit	- 972 "	Vegetables	- 926
Macaroni	- 56 "		

Total weight: 8116 lbs. or 3 tons 12 cwt. 1 qr. 24 lbs.

FOOD POISONING. No case of food poisoning was notified to me during the year.

Milk

During the year 36 samples of milk as supplied to householders were taken; 32 of these satisfactorily passed the appropriate tests, but 4 failed to do so.

In addition to the above, 27 samples of milk supplied to schools were taken for submission to the bacteriologist, all of which satisfactorily passed the tests

The reports on all the samples taken have been submitted to the appropriate Committee who then gave instructions as to the action to be taken.

Under the Milk (Special Designations) Order, 1936, the following licences were granted by the Council:-

2 - For bottling Tuberculin Tested Milk.
1 - Supplementary Licence for Pasteurised Milk.

Ice-Cream

During the year 15 samples of Ice-cream were taken for bacteriological examination, these being placed in the following Provincial Grades:-

Provisional Grade I	- 3	) Satisfactory
Provisional Grade II	- 5	)----------
Provisional Grade III	- 3	)
Provisional Grade IV	- 4	) Unsatisfactory.

WATER. This is piped to the area from a well in the chalk, and has been quite satisfactory both as regards quality and quantity.

The Chemical Analysis showed it to be a clear, bright water, neutral in action and free from any deposit on standing.
In this water there is in parts per 100,000.:-

Free Ammonia	.0040
Albuminoid Ammonia	.0100
Temporary Hardness	15.0
Permanent Hardness	6.0

It is hard in character but is much softened on boiling, but is suitable for all domestic purposes.

The water is not plumbo-solvent

During the year 106 samples have been bacteriologically examined. From the well 54 were satisfactory ~~out of~~ and one unsatisfactory. The latter was no doubt due to an error in taking the sample, as all subsequent samples were satisfactory. The remaining 51 samples, which were all satisfactory were taken from various points of delivery in the Borough.

Almost the entire population is supplied from the public mains. About 100 houses are supplied by taps outside the building.

House Drainage

All new drainage work in connection with both Old and New Buildings has been supervised, examined and tested, and for this purpose 95 visits have been paid to various premises within the Borough.

House Repairs

During the year, 130 houses were inspected of which 76 were found to be unfit for human habitation in certain respects, which resulted in the service of 19 informal notices, followed in 68 instances by formal notices under Section 9 of the Housing Act, 1936.

In 34 cases the requisite work has not yet been carried out.

Isolation Hospital

During the first half year the following cases were admitted for treatment or observations:-

From the Borough of Dorchester:-
3 Scarlet Fever
1 Erysipelas
1 Observation Case.

From the Dorchester Rural District:-

4 Scarlet Fever Cases from Tolpuddle, Melcombe Bingham, Frome Vauchurch and Minterne.

From Wareham Rural District:-

1 Observation Case.

Since 5th July 1948 this Isolation Hospital has been taken over by the Government and is now the control of the West Dorset Group Hospitals Management Committee.

Infectious Illness

10 rooms have been disinfected during the year and in 9 cases the infected bedding etc., has been removed for Steam disinfection; 130 articles have been so treated during the year.

10 Notices were issued to school Superintendents concerning the exclusion or re-admission of scholars.

Summary of Complaints Received

Defective condition of houses	.....	31
House drainage	.....	8
Overcrowding	.....	3
Rat or House Infestations	.....	4
Miscellaneous	.....	7
		53

P.T.O.

Rodent Control

Only 3 Applications for assistance in the destruction of rats were received. In one case the test meal result was negative, but in both the other cases a number of rats were destroyed.

Pavement Nuisances

A very considerable offence is still brought about by the far too numerous dogs that foul every highway and byeway in the Borough. The disgusting habits of these animals render them totally unfit to use the public pathways and pavements.

It is regretted that no legal action under our bye-laws appears to have been taken against persons who deliberately allow their dogs to cause these nuisances. Failing such action I can only suggest that more labour be employed to hose and brush the public pavements to render them fit for their legitimate use.

Petroleum (Consolidation) Act, 1928

During the year 48 licences for the keeping of Petroleum Spirit were issued together with 2 licences for the storage of Carbide of Calcium.

Food and Drugs Act, 1938 (Ice Cream)

During the year 5 premises were registered for the sale of Ice Cream.

FACTORIES ACT 1937

	No. on Register.	No. of Inspections	No. of written Notices	No of Occupiers Prosecuted.
Factories (in which Sections 1-4 & 6 are enforced)	111	33	3	Nil.

Defects found:-	Found	Remedied	Referred to H.M. Inspector	Referred by H.M. Inspector
Want of cleanliness	2	2	--	--
Sanitary Conveniences (unsuitable or defective)	1	..	--	--
Outworkers	4			

C.D. Day M.A., D.P.H.

Medical Officer of Health.